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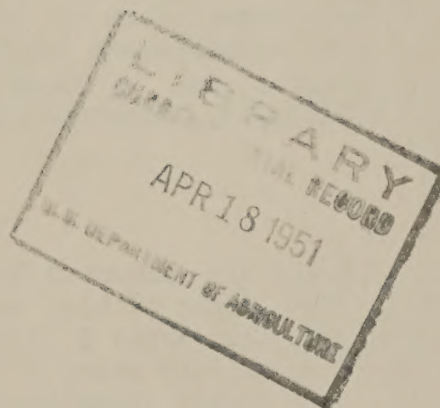
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Food Distribution Programs Branch

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

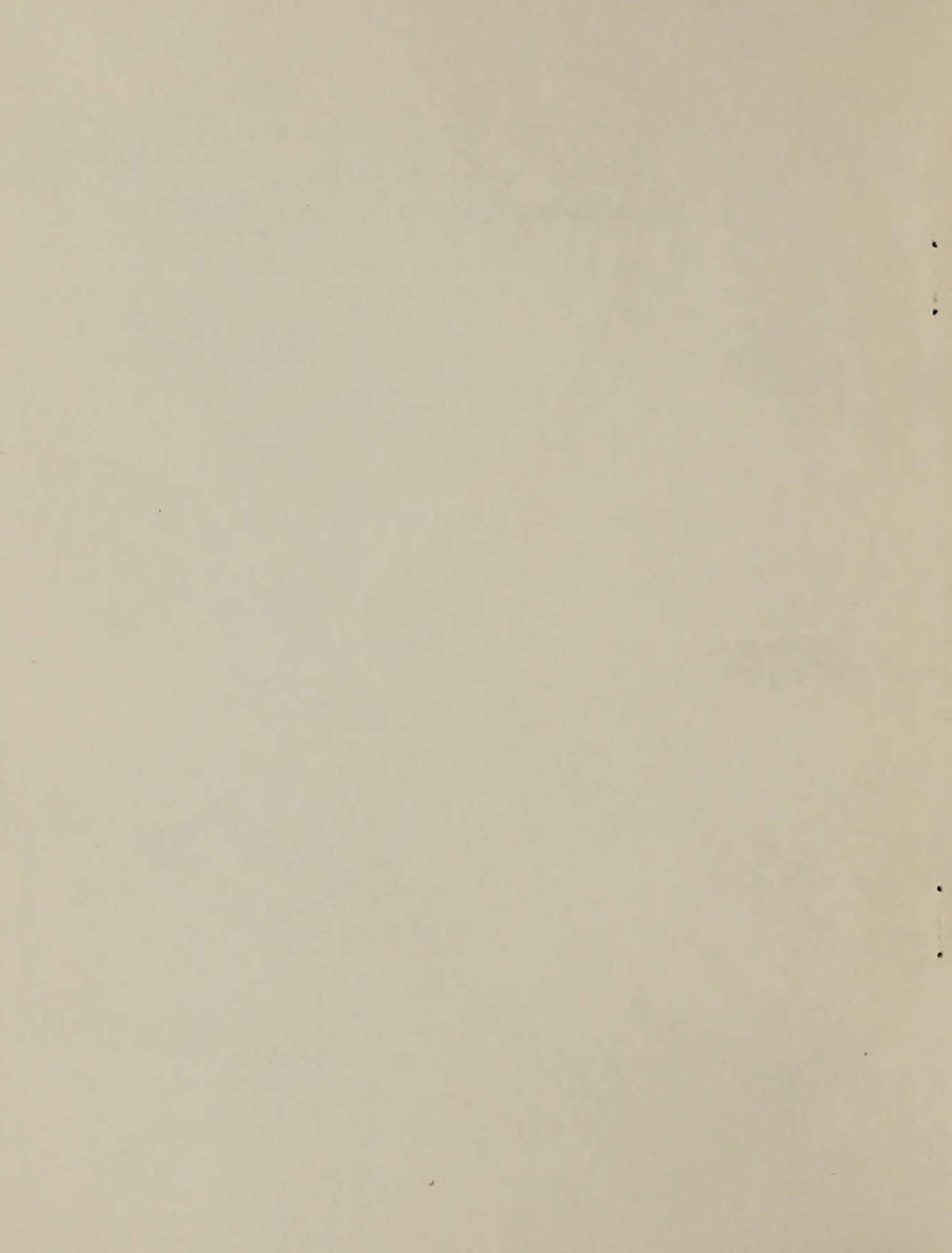
THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

1948-49



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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The National School Lunch Program, in the 1948-49 fiscal year, provided a market for more than \$200,000,000 worth of agricultural commodities. Of this amount, \$169,000,000 were spent for commodities purchased locally by schools through normal wholesale and retail channels. The remainder was made available through direct purchase and distribution operations by the United States Department of Agriculture. Some of the highlights of the 1948-49 program shown below, are illustrated by the accompanying charts.

Participation Increased 15 Percent

During November, the peak month, almost 7,000,000 children in 48,000 schools in the United States and Territories participated in the National School Lunch Program, an increase of almost 1 million over the peak month of 1947-48. At the present time the number of children participating is almost twice the number in the program in 1944, when the indemnity phase of the program began. The number of children reached by the program is approximately 26 percent of the total enrollment in all elementary and secondary schools in the United States and Territories. The number of schools in the program has increased from 29,800 in 1944 to 50,000 at the present time.

More Than 1 Billion Meals

The total number of meals served during 1948-49 was 1,120,600,000, of which 669,000,000 were complete "A" meals comprising one-third to one-half of the child's daily nutritional requirements of protein, vegetables, cereal, butter or margarine, and milk. ^{1/} Year after year the proportionate number of "A" meals served has increased while meals of other types have decreased.

Average Cost of Lunches

In 1949, the average cost of preparing all types of school lunches was 25 cents, of which the parents paid 14 cents, the Federal government 6 cents, State and local governments 3 cents, and other local groups 2 cents. However, the most typical price charged children for a complete "A" lunch was 20 cents, which was slightly higher than the price charged in the previous year.

^{1/} If a school has limited lunchroom facilities, it may contract to serve the Type B lunch. This lunch provides but two-thirds as much food as the Type A lunch. What is known as a "Type C lunch" consists of one-half pint of whole milk and is included in the program especially for schools without lunchroom facilities.

1 Meal Out of 7 Free

Children who were not able to pay the full price, received their lunches at no cost or at a reduced price. In 1948-49, 14.8 percent of all meals were in this category. In Puerto Rico, 99 percent of all meals were served completely free, and in the Virgin Islands, 75 percent.

Louisiana Program

In 1948-49, one State announced the goal of serving free lunches to every child enrolled in its schools. The State of Louisiana appropriated \$6,900,000 for the School Lunch Program, and, as a result, participation doubled. Approximately 55 percent of the children enrolled in schools in Louisiana received lunches either free or at a very nominal cost.

School Lunch Program Costs \$291,400,000

The total cost of the School Lunch Program in 1948-49 was \$291,400,000, of which the Federal appropriation amounted to \$75,000,000, or approximately one-fourth. The remainder was provided by State governments, county and local governments, children's payments for lunches, and contributions of local groups and individuals either in cash, commodities, or services.

Distribution of Commodities to Schools

In 1948-49, 67,200,000 pounds of food were purchased with part of the school lunch funds and distributed to schools by the Federal government to supplement school meals and to help make up for deficiencies of vitamin C, protein, and calcium in the diets of the children. Foods bought for this purpose were American cheese, nonfat dry milk solids, orange juice concentrate, peanut butter, canned tomatoes, tomato juice, and tomato paste.

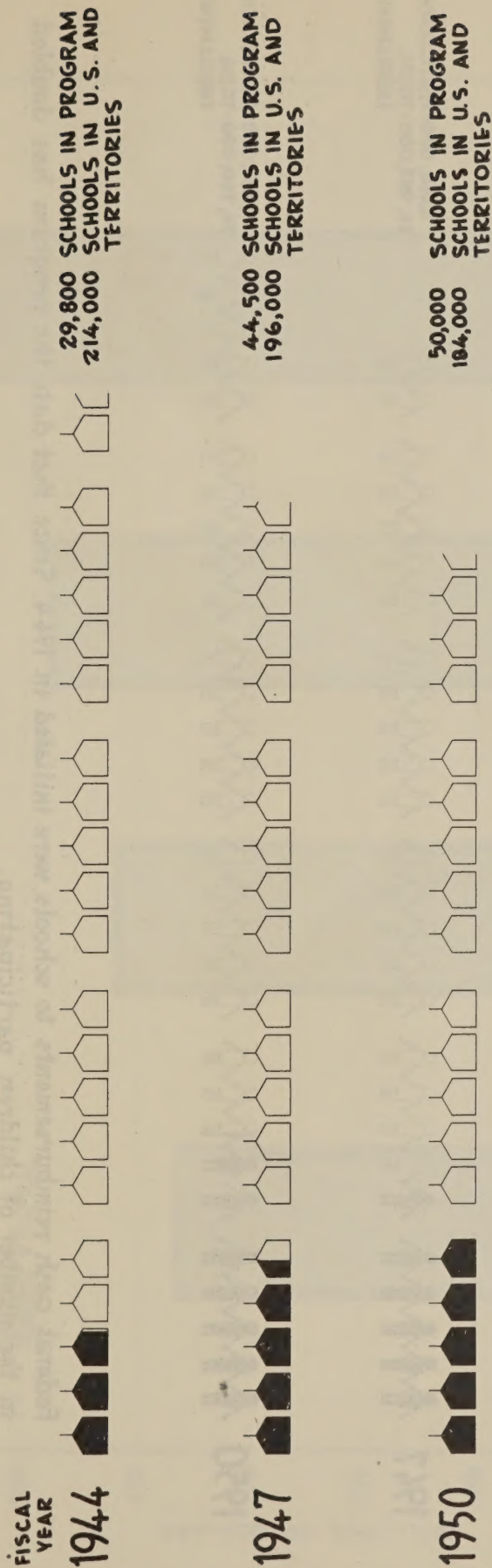
Surplus Foods Also Sent to Schools

School children were the major recipients of surplus commodities purchased by the United States Department of Agriculture to aid in relieving distressed markets. These foods, amounting to 219,000,000 pounds, were distributed among schools outside of the National School Lunch Program, as well as to participating schools. Surplus commodities included dried eggs, canned fruit, dried fruit, grapefruit juice, honey, orange juice concentrate, white potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and other vegetables.

More Than 1.3 Billion Pounds of Commodities Used in School Lunches

It is estimated that school lunch programs used more than 245,000,000 quarts of milk in 1948-49 for beverage purposes. This compares favorably with the fluid milk sales in many of the Nation's large milk marketing areas. Other dairy products, including milk used for cooking, butter, and cheese, are estimated to have been 170,000,000 pounds. Eggs used for school lunches amounted to 18,000,000 dozen; meat, 83,000,000 pounds; fruits and vegetables, 407,000,000 pounds; bread and other foods made from grain, 103,000,000 pounds; fats and oils except butter, 24,000,000 pounds; and sugar, 31,000,000 pounds.

There are now 50,000 schools in the National School Lunch Program.



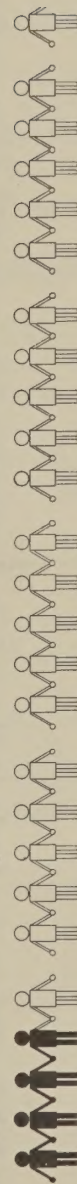
The total number of schools in the U.S. is declining each year due to consolidation trend. Many children must travel long distances to schools and are no longer able to eat lunch at home.

☐ - 10,000 SCHOOLS (SHADED SYMBOLS REPRESENT SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM).

Every year the National School Lunch Program reaches more children.

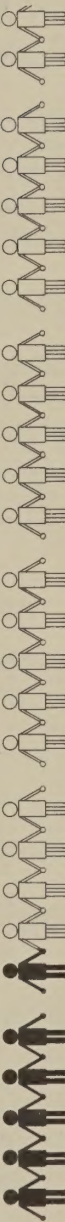
FISCAL
YEAR

1944



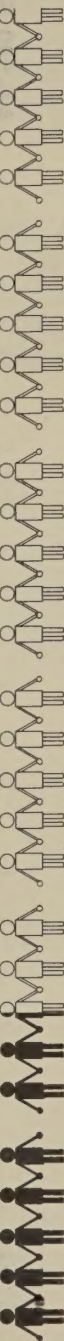
3,762,000 - PARTICIPATION
25,850,000 - TOTAL
ENROLLMENT

1947



6,016,000 - PARTICIPATION
26,983,000 - TOTAL
ENROLLMENT

1950



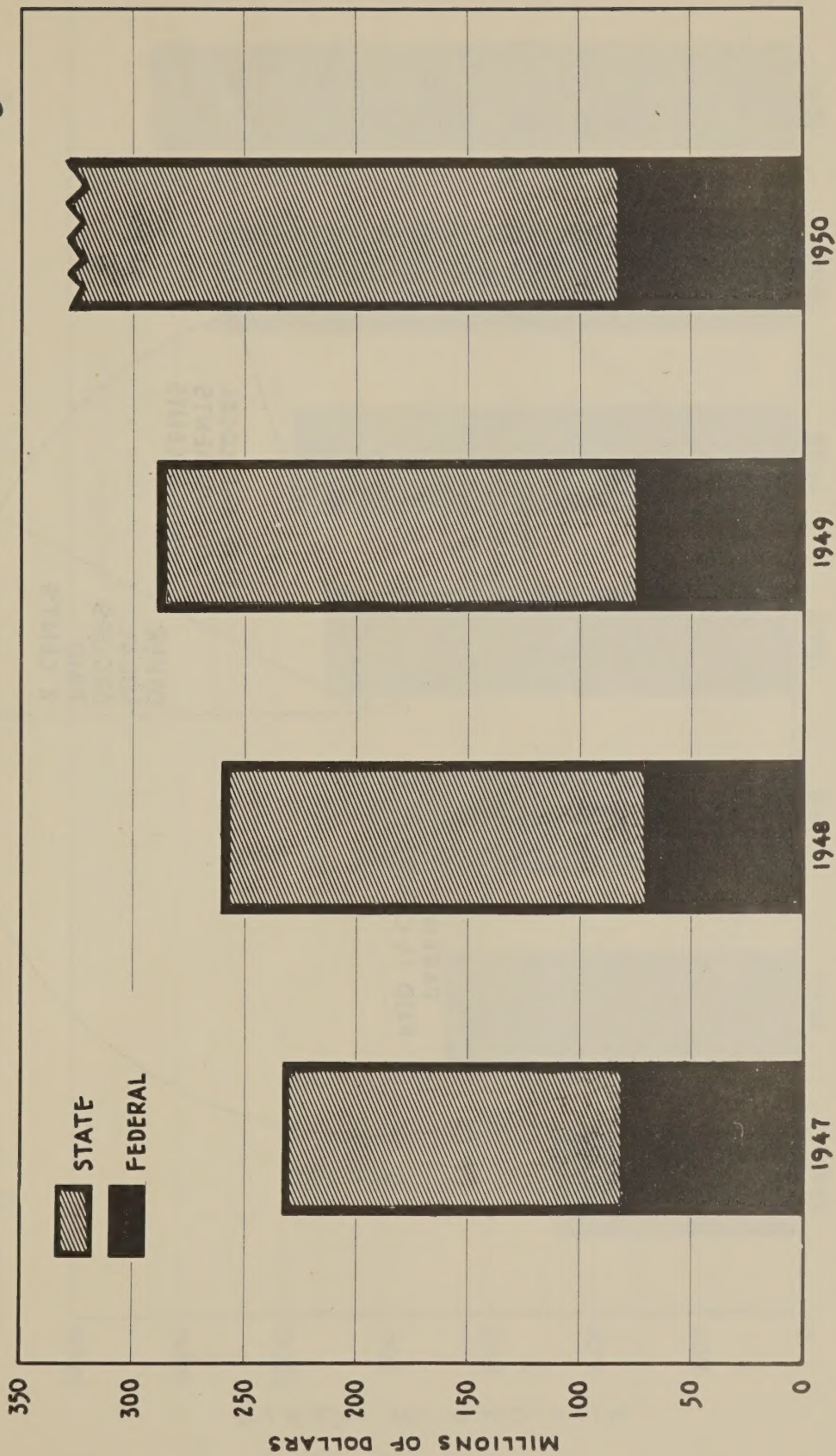
7,400,000 - PARTICIPATION
29,700,000 - TOTAL
ENROLLMENT

Federal cash reimbursements to schools were initiated in 1944. Since that date the program has doubled in the number of children participating.

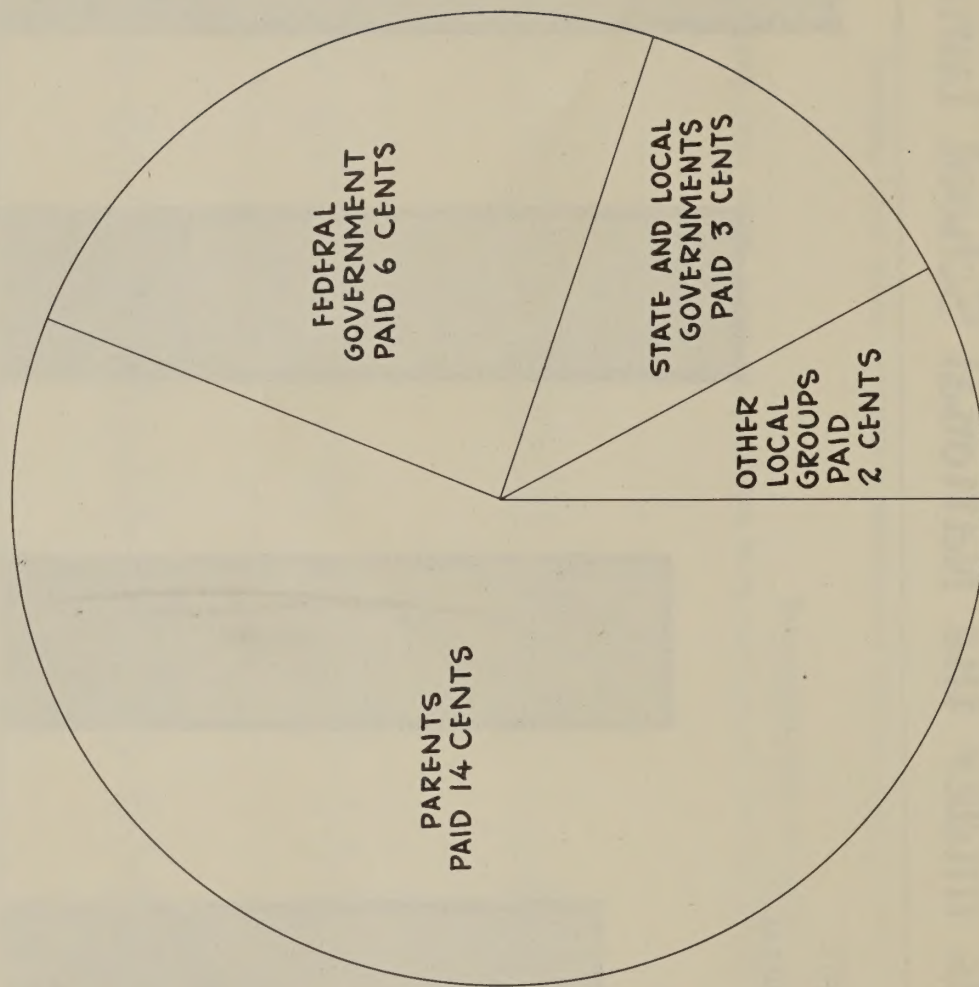


-1,000,000 CHILDREN (SHADED SYMBOLS REPRESENT CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM).

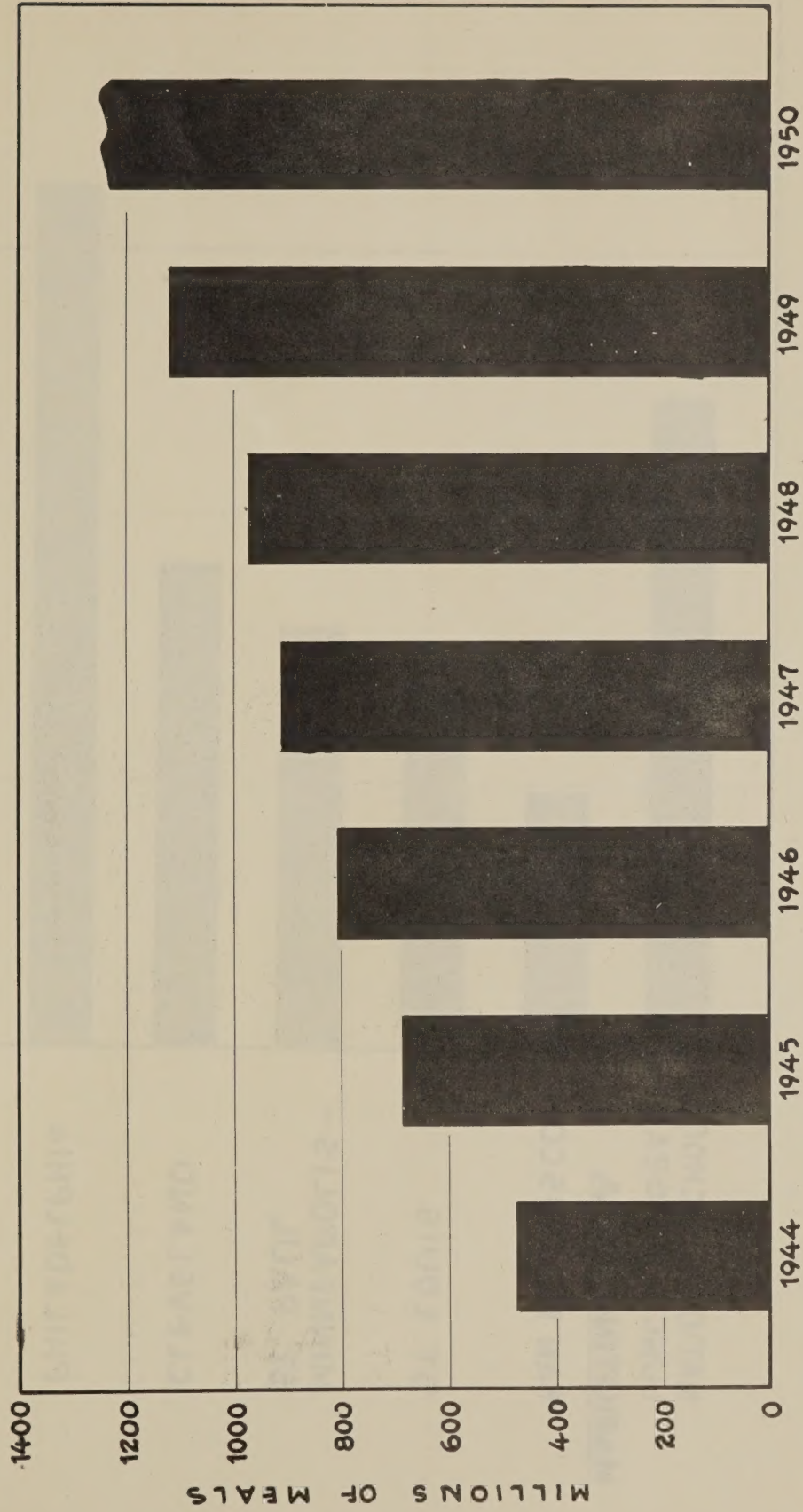
State and local sources bear more than two-thirds of total costs under the National School Lunch Program.



In 1949 the average lunch cost 25 cents, of which parents paid 14 cents.



Well over a billion meals will be served to children this year under the National School Lunch Program.



In 1949 over 60 per cent of all meals served were complete meals including milk, protein, fruits and vegetables, bread, and butter.

The 245,000,000 quarts of fluid milk used in the National School Lunch Program in 1949 compares favorably with fluid milk sales in selected large urban markets.

